

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (canceled).

2. (currently amended) The process of Claim 425 wherein the acid has a pK_a of 2.5 or less.
3. (original) The process of Claim 2 wherein the acid has a pK_a of 2 or less.
4. (currently amended) The process of Claim 425 wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, sulphuric acid, sulphonic acids, phosphonic acid, halogenated phosphonic acids, carboxylic acids, halogenated carboxylic acids, aromatic carboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.
5. (original) The process of Claim 4 wherein the acid is a sulphonic acid.
6. (original) The process of Claim 5 wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of methanesulphonic acid, trifluoromethanesulphonic acid, tert-butan sulphonic acid, p-toluenesulphonic acid and 2,4,6-trimethylbenzenesulphonic acid.
7. (currently amended) The process of Claim 425 wherein the acid is a mixture of methane sulphonic acid and phosphoric acid.
8. (currently amended) The process of Claim 425 wherein the Group VIII metal is selected from the group consisting of rhodium, nickel, palladium, and platinum.
9. (original) The process of Claim 8 wherein the Group VIII metal is selected from the group consisting of palladium and platinum.
10. (original) The process of Claim 9 wherein the Group VIII metal is palladium.
11. (currently amended) The process of Claim 425 wherein both M^1 and M^2 are phosphorus atoms.
12. (currently amended) The process of Claim 425 wherein R is an aliphatic bridging group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms.
13. (original) The process of Claim 12 wherein R is an aliphatic bridging group containing from 2 to 6 carbon atoms.
14. (original) The process of Claim 13 wherein R is an aliphatic bridging group containing from 2 to 4 carbon atoms.

15. (currently amended) The process of Claim 425 wherein the bivalent cyclic aliphatic groups represented by R¹ and R² and/or R³ and R⁴, respectively, contain from 6 to 9 ring atoms, of which one ring atom is M¹ and M², respectively.
16. (original) The process of Claim 15 wherein R¹ and R² together and R³ and R⁴ together are each a bivalent cycloaliphatic group.
17. (currently amended) The process of Claim 425 wherein the cycloaliphatic group contains at least 5 ring atoms.
18. (original) The process of Claim 17 wherein the cycloaliphatic group contains 6 to 20 ring atoms.
19. (currently amended) The process of Claim 425 wherein M¹ and M² are both phosphorus and R¹, R² and M¹ together and R³, R⁴ and M² together both represent a phosphabicycloalkyl group.
20. (currently amended) The process of Claim 425 wherein the bivalent cycloaliphatic group is selected from the group consisting of 1,4-cyclo-octylene, 1,5-cyclo-octylene, and mixtures thereof.
21. (currently amended) The process of Claim 425 wherein the quantity of catalyst used is from about 10⁻⁸ to about 10⁻¹ mole atom of Group VIII metal used per mole of the compound reacted.
22. (original) The process of Claim 21 wherein the quantity of catalyst used is from about 10⁻⁷ to about 10⁻² mole atom of Group VIII metal used per mole of the compound reacted.
23. (currently amended) The process of Claim 425 wherein from about 0.5 to about 10 moles of bidentate ligand are used per mole atom of Group VIII metal.
24. (original) The process of Claim 23 wherein from about 1 to about 6 moles of bidentate ligand are used per mole atom of Group VIII metal.
25. (currently amended) A process for converting paraffins to primary alcohols comprising the steps of:
- (a) subjecting a paraffin feed comprising linear and/or branched paraffins to an oxidation reaction in the presence of an oxidation catalyst to form a mixture comprising secondary alcohols and/or tertiary alcohols and/or ketones; and;
 - (b) reacting the mixture of secondary alcohols and/or tertiary alcohols and/or ketones with carbon monoxide and hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst based on:
 - (i) a source of Group VIII metal,
 - (ii) a bidentate ligand having the general formula (I):



wherein ~~M¹, M², R¹, R², R³, R⁴~~ and R are as defined hereinabove M¹ and M² are independently P, As or Sb; R¹ and R² together represent a bivalent substituted or unsubstituted cyclic aliphatic group whereby the two free valencies are linked to M¹; R³ and R⁴ independently represent a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl group, or together represent a bivalent or unsubstituted cyclic group whereby the two free valencies are linked to M²; and R represents a bivalent organic bridging group; and
 (iii) an acid having a pKa of 3 or less wherein the acid is in stoichiometric excess over the Group VIII metal.